

Message Text

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21/14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06

OMB-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 /080 W

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R 060506Z JUL 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5561

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2879

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJ: OPIUM-NEPAL

1. DURING PSCENT VISIT TO NEPAL BY REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL EMBASSY HEARD FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF REPORTED SIGHTING OF OPIUM CULTIVATION IN NEPAL.

2. MERVIN STEPHENS, EMPLOYEE OF US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO FAO PROJECT IN NEPAL, REPORTED THAT DURING TREK FROM JUMLA TO SIMRAKOT IN EXTREAME NORTHWEST NEPAL LAST MONTH HE SAW FLOWERING WHITE AND PURPLE POPPY UNDER CULTIVATION. MAJORITY OF FIELDS WERE PLANTED ABOVE 8000 FEET IN ELEVATION AND IN SMALL, HIDDEN VALLEYS. ACCORDING TO STEPHENS LOCAL FARMERS READILY ADMITTED THEY WERE CULTIVATING POPPY FOR OPIUM, ALTHOUGH STEPHENS HAS NO IDEA HOW EXTENSIVE THIS PRACTICE IS IN THE REMOTE AREA OF NEPAL.

3. COMMENT: UN REPRESENTATIVES SHARED EMBASSY VIEW THAT THIIIS IS FIRST SUBSTANTIATED REPORT OF OPIUM CUL-CONFIDENTIAL

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TIVATION IN NEPAL AND AS SUCH, IS OF EXTREAME IMPORTANCE GIVEN TOTAL LACK OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL IN THESE REGIONS WHICH ARE CLIMATICALLY SUITABLE TO POPPY GROWTH. EMBASSY WILL RAISE THIS MATTER AT SUITABLE GOVERNMENT

LEVEL IN NEAR FUTURE IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHAER HMG
IS AWARE OF POPPY CULTIVATION IN THE COUNTYR.
MAYTAG

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KATHMA02879
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760259-0600
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197607109/baaaeskm.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPIUM-NEPAL
TAGS: SNAR, NP
To: STATE INFO ANKARA
GENEVA
NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006